

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

81-1321/A

SUBJECT (Optional)

Thella Yourgrau - F79-1215

FROM:

Harry E. Fitzwater
 Deputy Director for Administration
 7D24 HQS

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

security-4-1

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DDCI

6/4

2.

3.

DCI

Rec'd 5 June 1981

JUN 1981

WPK

For signature

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Washington, D. C. 20505

Executive Register

81-1321/A

DDA 81-1120/1

8 JUN 1981

Mr. Joseph Coors
President
Adolph Coors Company
Golden, Colorado 80401

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 1981. I always enjoy hearing from you, even though in this instance it involves a problem at my Agency.

I have checked into the matter of your request to expedite the processing of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request concerning the late Wolfgang Yourgrau. I have been advised by our Information and Privacy Coordinator that we began processing this request for Professor Alwyn van der Merwe on 18 December 1979. In early correspondence, we advised Professor van der Merwe that we doubted if we could complete his request in time to meet his publication deadline. As a matter of policy, we process all FOIA and Privacy Act requests on a first-in, first-out basis, which we believe to be the most equitable for all requesters. Any exception to this policy is extremely rare and must be approved by our General Counsel. Professor van der Merwe's need was not compelling enough to have his request placed in the front of our queue.

Professor van der Merwe appealed our lack of response to his request on 7 August 1980. This placed his request in our appeals queue, to which we have adopted the same policy as above; that is, our appeals are also handled on a first-in, first-out basis.

Our response time to these FOIA and Privacy Act requests is unfortunately predicated on the number and complexity of the requests we receive. Even when a request reaches the top of the queue, we must go through the arduous task of reviewing each and every document, presuming documents are in fact found. This process is necessary in order to fulfill my statutory obligation to protect intelligence sources and methods and other sensitive information. I can appreciate Professor van der Merwe's concern with not having received a final response to his request. It is the overwhelming number of our other requests and their nature which have caused our

backlog. In the past, the Coordinator occasionally projected completion dates for requesters. Unforeseen circumstances in many cases occurred, however, which negated his predictions. This practice often built false hopes in our requesters, as well as causing an embarrassment to us.

Please convey my sincere regrets to Mrs. Yourgrau that we have been unable to answer Professor van der Merwe's request to date, or to give him a definitive date for completion. Please also assure Mrs. Yourgrau that we are continuing to process this request.

Yours,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey

cc: Mrs. Thella Yourgrau
Professor Alwyn van der Merwe

STAT

IPD/GAV/nkl 1 June 81

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

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- 1 - OIS Subject w/background
- 1 - OIS Chrono

Approved For Release 2006/01/12 : CIA-RDP84B00890R000700030056-9

- 1 - IPD Subject F79-1215 (Appeals) w/background
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